

In the Claims

Claims 1-26 remain in the application for consideration and are listed as follows:

1. (Original) A method for use in a computer capable of supporting multiple authentication mechanisms, the method comprising:
generating at least one indicator associated with and identifying at least one authentication mechanism; and
controlling access to at least one resource based on the indicator.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein generating the indicator further includes receiving inputs, providing the inputs to the authentication mechanism, and causing the authentication mechanism to generate at least one security identifier (SID) that identifies the authentication mechanism.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein generating the indicator further includes identifying within the indicator at least one characteristic associated with the authentication mechanism.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the at least one characteristic associated with the authentication mechanism includes a measure of strength of the authentication mechanism.

1 5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the measure of
2 strength of the authentication mechanism identifies a length of an encryption key
3 employed by the authentication mechanism.

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5 6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein controlling
6 access to the resource based on the indicator further includes comparing the
7 indicator to at least one access control list having at least one access control entry
8 therein.

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10 7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein if the access
11 control entry operatively specifies that the at least one authentication mechanism
12 is permitted to access the resource, then access to the at least one resource is
13 allowed to proceed.

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15 8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein if the access
16 control entry operatively specifies that the at least one authentication mechanism
17 is not permitted to access the resource, then access to the at least one resource is
18 not allowed to proceed.

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20 9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein if the access
21 control entry does not operatively specify that the at least one authentication
22 mechanism is permitted to access the resource, then access to the at least one
23 resource is not allowed to proceed.

1 10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the indicator
2 includes a security token.

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4 11. (Original) A computer-readable medium for use in a device capable
5 of supporting multiple authentication mechanisms, the computer-readable medium
6 having computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

7 producing at least one indicator that uniquely identifies at least one
8 authentication mechanism supported by the device; and

9 causing the device to selectively control access to at least one resource
10 operatively coupled to the device based at least in part on the indicator.

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12 12. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11,
13 wherein producing the indicator further includes receiving inputs, providing the
14 inputs to the authentication mechanism, and causing the authentication mechanism
15 to generate at least one security identifier (SID) that identifies the authentication
16 mechanism, in response thereto.

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18 13. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11,
19 wherein producing the indicator further includes identifying within the indicator at
20 least one characteristic of the authentication mechanism.

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22 14. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13,
23 wherein the at least one characteristic of the authentication mechanism includes a
24 strength characteristic of the authentication mechanism.

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1 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14,
2 wherein the strength characteristic identifies a length of an encryption key
3 employed by the authentication mechanism.

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5 16. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11,
6 wherein causing the device to selectively control access to the at least one resource
7 based on the indicator further includes causing the device to compare the indicator
8 to control data .

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10 17. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16,
11 wherein if the control data specifies that the authentication mechanism is
12 permitted to access the resource, to which subsequent access to the resource is
13 allowed.

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15 18. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16,
16 wherein if the control data operatively specifies that the authentication mechanism
17 is not permitted to access the resource, to which subsequent access to the resource
18 is prohibited.

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20 19. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16,
21 wherein if the control data does not operatively specify that the authentication
22 mechanism is permitted to access the resource, to which subsequent access to the
23 resource is prohibited.

1 20. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,
2 wherein the indicator includes a security token.

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4 21. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
5 at least one authentication mechanism configured to generate at least one
6 indicator that identifies the authentication mechanism;
7 an access control list;
8 at least one access controlled resource; and
9 logic operatively configured to compare the indicator with the access
10 control list and selectively control access to the resource based on the indicator .

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12 22. (Original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 21, wherein the
13 authentication mechanism is further configured to receive user inputs and generate
14 at least one security identifier (SID) that identifies the authentication mechanism
15 based on the user inputs.

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17 23. (Original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 21, wherein the
18 indicator further includes at least one identifying characteristic associated with the
19 authentication mechanism.

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21 24. (Original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 23, wherein the at least
22 one identifying characteristic associated with the authentication mechanism
23 indicates a measure of strength of the authentication mechanism

1 25. (Original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein the measure
2 of strength of the authentication mechanism identifies a length of an encryption
3 key employed by the authentication mechanism.

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5 26. (Original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 23, wherein the
6 indicator includes a security token.